Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CZ

SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT: DIVIDED FAMILY (ENGLOVA, LILIA SVARTZ)

- 1. CONGRESSWOMAN HOLTZMAN AND SENATOR JAVITS INTERESTED.
- 2. ON SEPTEMBER 6, MR. DAVID SVARTZ VISITED DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE FOR HIS SISTER, LILIA ENGLOVA. MRS. ENGLOVA, HER HUSBAND, AND TWO CHILDREN WERE ARRESTED IN LATE AUGUST IN BUCHAREST WHILE BOARDING AN AIRCRAFT FOR VIENNA. REPORTEDLY MRS. ENGLOVA OBTAINED VISAS AT AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST AND PURCHASED PLANE TICKETS WITH U.S. DOLLARS PROVIDED BY HER BROTHER. ENGLOVA APPARENTLY BROUGHT DOLLARS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO ROMANIA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. MRS. ENGLOVA AND FAMILY WERE DEPORTED TO THEIR HOMETOWN IN SLOVAKIA, LIPTOVSKY MIKULAS. AFTER A FEW DAYS IN PRISON THEY WERE RELEASED AND ACCORDING TO SVARTZ ARE NOW AWAITING TRIAL FOR "ESPIONAGE". SVARTZ LEARNED OF HIS SISTER'S PLIGHT IN A LETTER FROM CANADA WHICH SHE APPARENTLY SUCCEEDED IN HAVING SOME FRIEND OR TOURIST MAIL.

- 4. ACCORDING TO SVARTZ, HIS SISTER WAS IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY IN SUMMER 1977 ABOUT POSSIBLE EMIGRATION. ENGLOVA'S FAMILY IS JEWISH AND HER TWO CHILDREN HAVE BEEN CONTINUALLY HARASSED IN THEIR SCHOOL. SVARTZ FEARS THAT IF HIS SISTER AND HUSBAND ARE JAILED, THEIR CHILDREN WILL BE COMMITTED TO ORPHANAGE.
- 5. SVARTZ WHO EMIGRATED TO U.S. ALMOST FIVE YEARS AGO, SAID HIS MOTHER IS SICK AND DESPERATE ABOUT SISTER'S SITUATION. THEY ARE ANXIOUS FOR ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEVELOP ON CASE.
- 6. DEPARTMENT OFFICER INDICATED FORMIDABLE PROBLEM EMBASSY MIGHT HAVE IN ASCERTAINING DETAILS OF CASE, BUT PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN DEVELOP. ADDITIONALLY, DEPARTMENT WOULD WELCOME EMBASSY'S VIEW ON SVARTZ'S SUGGESTION THAT: (A) U.S. LAWYER COME TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO ASSIST HIS SISTER; OR (B) THAT HE HIMSELF MAKE TRIP TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. DEPARTMENT OFFICER VOLUNTEERED THAT CONCEIVABLY LAWYER MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF TRIAL HAS NOT ALREADY TAKEN PLACE BUT SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE IMPRUDENT FOR SVARTZ HIMSELF TO TRAVEL AT THIS JUNCTURE.
- 7. SHOULD WORST CASE EVENTUATE AND ENGLOVA AND HUSBAND BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JAILED, SVARTZ IS MOST ANXIOUS TO ARRANGE FOR EMIGRATION OF HIS NIECE AND NEPHEW RATHER THAN SEE THEM CONFINED TO ORPHANAGE. CHRISTOPHER

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